

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
ACDA-07 IO-13 OMB-01 /077 W  
-----140507Z 059439 /17

R 132012Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3890  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 2359

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, EC, PE  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH PERU

1. ON APRIL 11 FONMIN JORGE SALVADOR LARA HELD A PRESS  
CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS HIS RECENT TRIP TO ARGENTINA. IN THE  
CONTEXT OF A QUESTION ABOUT A STATEMENT SALVADOR MADE IN  
BUENOS AIRES WITH REGARD TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE  
FALKLAND ISLAND DISPUTE, A REPORTER ASKED ABOUT THE STATE  
OF ECUADOR-PERU RELATIONS. SALVADOR RESPONDED THAT, AFTER  
A SHORT PERIOD OF ABNORMAL RELATIONS IN DECEMBER, RELATIONS  
BETWEEN ECUADOR AND PERU "ARE AT THIS TIME ABSOLUTELY NORMAL  
AT THE LEVEL OF AMBASSADORS." HE ADDED THAT HE BELIEVES  
THERE EXISTS A CLIMATE ADEQUATE TO INITIATE "ANY NEGOTIATIONS."  
SALVADOR STRESSED THAT A FRANK AND CORDIAL DIALOGUE WITH  
PERU IS IMPORTANT BUT THAT HE HAD ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT  
SUCH A DIALOGUE MUST INCLUDE "AN HONORABLE CONCILIATION  
OF OUR PROBLEM."

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2. COMMENT: ECUADOREAN MFA OFFICIALS ARE PAST MASTERS  
AT SPLITTING HAIRS. SALVADOR'S CHARACTERIZATION OF  
RELATIONS WITH PERU AS BEING ABSOLUTELY NORMAL AT THE  
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THIS. HE MEANS  
THAT IN THE FORMAL SENSE, I.E., OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS,  
DIALOGUE BETWEEN BORDER MILITARY COMMANDERS, ETC., RELATIONS

ARE NORMAL. THE REFERENCE TO "OUR PROBLEM," HOWEVER, MAKES IT CLEAR THAT SOME RESOLUTION OF THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE WITH PERU, AND PERHAPS THE ARMS IMBALANCE AS WELL, WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE TRULY NORMAL RELATIONS CAN BE ACHIEVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, SALVADOR, SINCE TAKING OFFICE, HAS ES-CHEWED BLANKET DENUNCIATIONS OF THE RIO PROTOCOL IN FAVOR OF A SOFTER LINE IMPLYING THAT A COMPROMISE, E.G., A CORRIDOR TO THE AMAZON-MARANON, WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM.  
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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